



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

May 1987

## —NEXT MEETING—

Monday June 8, 1987  
International G.C.

Supt., Executive Guests  
Host Superintendent  
Ronald Milenski  
Flyers will be sent out

## A Most Deserving Fellow

Do they like Don Hearn?

Really, now. The day (Sunday, April 5) was made for ducks and river spills. No one in their right mind would venture out under such unyielding conditions.

Therefore, there were a lot of insane people on the loose at the Weston Golf Club last month when club members, friends and associates of the new president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America was honored at a gala reception.

The good folks at Weston, for whom Don has turned over a sparkling golf playground the past 15 years, presented their superintendent with a Rolex watch in ceremonies marking the deserving elevation.

Between presentations came kind and sincere words of praise for the man of the hour.

Another president, Gerry Ford who used to run this country from the famed

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## Ex-MGA Official Lifts Super Another Notch

When George Cohen "retired" from the Massachusetts Golf Association Executive Committee last fall, he was not at all pleased with the prospect the decision presented.

"Oh, after 17 years, I thought it was time to turn over my spot to someone else," Cohen explained. "But I didn't want to divorce myself completely from that very interesting and important facet (MGA) of the game in our area."

So, Cohen did the next best thing. He wrote to New England Golf Course Superintendent Association Newsletter chairman Ron Kirkman, requesting to remain on the publication's mailing list.

"Of course, I complied," Kirkman sassed. "We need every satisfied reader we can get!"

Seriously, Cohen's letter, which cited the improvement in form and content of the Newsletter, serves as another lift for the golf course superintendent in his winning quest for recognition and, yes, respect as a "professional".

Cohen, a long-time Crestview Country Club member, has witnessed that climb and marvels at the progress made by the "super".

"I can remember when the superintendent was the 'greenskeeper' and nothing more than a guy with a rake in his hand and hope in his heart that whatever he was doing in matter of maintaining the golf course was right," Cohen remarked.

"Yes, those were humble beginnings," he continued. "Frankly, the man mowing the grass and fertilizing the fairways was not much more than a laborer. Today, that same man is a technician and businessman of the highest order. I think the profession should be proud of itself."

Cohen's involvement with the superintendent goes a long way. He ran the gamut of board positions at Crestview, even while becoming one of that club's most proficient golfers. He appreciates, then, the hard work the superintendent has put into the heavy task of improving himself and his profession.

"I am especially impressed by the superintendent's input as a member of the MGA Executive Committee," he told. "That part of his recognition rise certainly shows how he has made great strides in becoming an executive in his own right."

"I recall attending meetings when the superintendent contributed much more than lip service. The man you now have (NEGCSA president Dave Barber). I can tell you. He just doesn't sit there. He's a key figure in many of the MGA's undertakings."

It is only recently that the MGA and the profession strengthened their relationship with inclusion of the current NEGCSA president on its executive committee.

"That was a great move on the MGA's part," Cohen noted. "The truth is that the golf course superintendent is becoming more of a visible and viable segment of the country club operation. In most cases, he's the man upon whose professional expertise many club board

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**EX-MGA OFFICIAL**

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decisions are based."

Cohen laughs when he dips into the long ago.

"It's a matter of the changing times," he explained. "Back when they were greenskeepers, we had what I like to call 'a cemetery philosophy' permeating the golf course. The greenskeeper wanted the grass to look nice and green but golfers were supposed to keep off it. That's funny."

That's also a thing of the past.

"The modern day superintendent?" Cohen suggested. "He's a person, steeped in educational motivation and determined to add to his expertise by exposing himself to as many learning experiences as he can. What's more, he's a person you can reason with.

"I remember when the starting and finishing dates of the golf season were etched in stone. You just weren't allowed to play unless the time fell between those two dates. It's different today. Today's superintendent adjusts to conditions. I'm telling you, he's a very reasonable guy."

Cohen also notes how the superintendent has contributed to the overall improvement of conditions and esthetic factors which lend themselves to the enjoyment of the game.

"Our golf courses are no longer a series of football fields," Cohen said. "Contour mowing has reached a state which enhances the excitement of playing the same course over and over again. That's a big feather in the super's cap - one of many like his input in budget-making, his help in setting up the course for championship and tournament play. It goes on and on. The superintendent has arrived."

Nothing more to add from this end. George Cohen has said it all and said it well. Has a good sound to it, huh?

**GERRY FINN**

**DESERVING FELLOW**

*Continued from page 1*

Oval Office, sent a note of congratulations.

Another would-be president, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, wrote a proclamation insuring Hearn of state-wide recognition and fame.

And back on the honors floor came a painting (of the Cape Hole) and a weekend at The Balsams for Don and his wife, Joan, from the NEGCSA which was represented by yet, another president, Dave Barber.

Obviously, the moment moved Hearn who thanked the overflow crowd for their thoughtfulness and promised to set his wake-up alarm for 4:30 am - just like every good superintendent does.

**GERRY FINN**

**Divot Drift**

The association held its first outdoor meeting last month, it rained and snowed, naturally - at Blue Hill C.C. The inclement weather prevented even the bravest of souls to play this fine golf course. However, Dave promises he will have us back again soon and we'll be able to test our skills from those new Cornish and Silva sand bunkers.

Depending on your location, the first two weeks of April produced over 10 inches of rain and golf courses located by rivers were inundated and severely damaged. Many other golf courses were saturated, particularly those with poor drainage. From Cape Ann to Cape Cod there were six days of partial sun out of the first twenty-four days and the other eighteen days were cloudy, cold, drizzle or rain. For many of us the final week in April was the first time golf cars were allowed. Then again, there are some real horror stories from super-

intendents where they were overruled and golf cars were let out early. Winter kill on greens were noticeably higher on the north shore and Worcester area and the southern parts of Vermont and New Hampshire. It appears all greens that were covered have come through the winter in excellent condition.

Robin Hayes from I and E Supply was critically injured while wind surfing in Florida. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Nick Commuso, assistant superintendent, International C.C. was presented his 25 year pin at the April Meeting.

**-POSTION OPENINGS-**

**Superintendents**

**Province Lake C.C.** 18 holes  
Rte. 153 E. Wakefield, N.H. 03830  
207-793-9577 Mike Farina

**Portsmouth C.C.** 18 holes  
Box 603  
Greenland, N.H. 03840  
Robert Reid, President

**Northampton C.C.** 9 holes  
28 Reuell Avenue  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-586-4289 William Rose, President

**Aconxet G.C.,** 9 hole  
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617-636-5060 Ray Palmer

**Assistant superintendent with some knowledge of mechanics, good starting salary, benefits & paid vacation:**

**contact: Al Singer, Supt.**

**Thompson Club**  
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**TRUSTEE**  
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Cummaquid G.C.

## The Super Speaks Out

Welcome to The Super Speaks Out — a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his views on topics and issues relating to his profession.

**This month's question:** *What are the problems you face as golf course superintendent at your club and how are you holding up?*

**Bil Gilson, Hickory Hill Golf Club:** "I'm holding up just fine. Now, if the rain would only go away, I might even become a pleasant fellow to talk to.

"Actually, we're talking and it's April (during last month's Waterloo of a start) and the Merrimack River's acting up again. It probably is my biggest problem because it's always there, on the rise when we get a lot of rain and big meltdown.

"The last week of March and first of April usually is a critical time for me in this respect. The combination of rain and snow melting and coming down from up-country has given me some headaches. I've seen that river rise two

feet overnight.

"The worst it can do is maybe shut down a couple of holes temporarily. Our seventh fairway catches it under conditions like these.

"Other than the rain, snow mold are the magic words. I've been in the business 30 years, 17 at Hickory, and this is the most snow mold I've ever seen.

"Fortunately, we've had a lot of recovery. We had 84 days of snow cover this winter and very little frost. Maybe that's why we've had success with the mold.

"Otherwise, life on the course is great. We get a lot of play, sometimes as much as we can handle. Which means business is good. Really, I have no complaints."



**Bernie Golonka, Pine Meadow Country Club:**

"Uh, you caught me right in the middle of a vandal-chase. We've

had some problems along that line the past couple of years, but it's nothing we can't handle. We'll get rid of it.

"My major problem? I guess you'd have to say it's Mother Nature. You just can't figure her out. For example, this year and last year's like night and day. Last year, we had lots of ice damage and I was the worst superintendent in the world.

"But this year, I came through the winter very nicely. So, maybe they'll be calling me the best? That's the way it goes. One year you're a hero, the next you're a bum. But that's life as a super.

"So Mother Nature was on my side this time and that's what trying to keep this course in shape is all about. This is my 22nd year at Pine Meadow and I'm still in there, pitching.

"My owner does enough for the golf course in way of setting up my budget and that's satisfying because we get a lot of play. This is a nine-hole course and you're talking 50,000 rounds a year.

So, there's no time for the course to rest or for me to relax. I still like it, though."

**John Coffey, Wollaston Golf Club:** "Hey, you caught me in a good mood. I only have one problem I can think of at the moment. Only thing is there are about a hundred of them.

"Right. The geese are here and they're letting me know it with their droppings. I know, it sounds funny. But it's not. Some of those critters run more than 15 pounds. They're tough on our golfers but tougher on me. I have to try and get rid of them.

"So far, no good.

"I've gone the fake swan route, the shotgun with blank bullets route and even tried to scare them away with firecrackers. No dice, though. They're still here and still doing their duty. I mean, we have five or six ponds here. By fall, we could have as many as 400 geese.

"Latest remedy is a dog, a registered Black Lab. He's four months old and I'm trying to train him to chase those birds back to where they came from. It's a slow process. I may not be gaining.

"Otherwise, things are just fine. As you know, we never close the golf course and when we do get frost, it comes out quickly. Things are greening up, too. I mowed six times before the first of the month (April).

"Anyway, life in general is very good and that includes my part in it as a golf course superintendent. I'm into my 12th year here and looking for many more."

GERRY FINN

### —NEW APPLICANTS—

**Gregory Carr** reg. member  
George Wright G.C.

**Robert Dill** reg. member  
Hopedale C.C.

**Mark Fuller** reg. member  
Quechee Club, Quechee, Vermont  
**Edward Amor Jr.** reg. member  
Far Corner G.C.

**Robert Garrity** assistant member  
Heritage Hill G.C.

**Manuel Viveiros**  
Furnace Brook G.C.

Reinstated reg. member

**FINANCE CHAIRMAN**  
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Weston, MA 02193  
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Weston Golf Club

### —Dates To Remember—

June 25, 1987  
Turf Research Field Day

University of Massachusetts  
Turfgrass Research Ctr, S. Deerfield, MA  
**CONTACT:** Dr. Rich Cooper  
Dept. of Plant & Soil Sciences  
Stockbridge Hall, Amherst, MA 01003  
Phone: 413-545-2353

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